

SORO NC Board Applicant Biography

18 August 2011

Armando Roman

Candidate for Zone 10 Seat

I would like to pursue a position with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council because of both my passion for public service, as well as a genuine and serious concern for the preservation, prosperity and identity of the area in which I reside. South Robertson holds a history of Los Angeles that is admirable and long lasting, and its independent businesses, noted cuisine, well-kept secrets, and active residents allow the area to continue to thrive. As a councilmember, I will continue to maintain and improve the neighborhood, by pursuing initiatives such as organizing public events and fundraisers, providing an open forum for issues and grievances, and personally visiting residents and addressing their concerns. My work as a community organizer has prepared me for a strong leadership role, and I look forward to the opportunity.



Motion asking for review of DWP rate increases by a Ratepayer Advocate

Agenda Item: GB081811-4

Date: 18 August 2011

Proposed By: Harold Bock

Recommends that action on DWP rate hike be deferred until a new Ratepayer Advocate is able to review the proposal.

Full Proposal

While the pros and cons of the Department of Water and Power's proposed rate hike may be debated, their preferred timeline does not allow review by a voter-authorized Ratepayers Advocate. They ask that the new rates be effective by November 1, 2011, which means the City Council would have to approve them by October 1.

As Jack Humphreville observed in CityWatch, "despite the fact that the City Council placed Measure I (Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayers Advocate) on the ballot in November [2010] and that this measure was approved by almost 80% of the voters on March 8, the City Council has not even selected the members of the Citizens Committee responsible for recruiting the Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability. Nor has the City Council drafted the necessary ordinances to define the role of the Executive Director and the Ratepayers Advocate. "

Given the complexity of the issue and potential financial impact on ratepayers, the City Council's decision should be deferred until a Ratepayers Advocate and Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) are hired and have the opportunity to make independent assessments of the proposal.

Proposed Motion

- i. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition and other Neighborhood Councils in strongly urging that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the City Council not consider or act upon the proposed water and power rate increases until the Ratepayers Advocate is established and has thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the proposed rate increases and presented such review and analysis to the Ratepayers and the public for their careful consideration.
- ii. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the motion, as introduced by Councilman Englander (Council file# 11-0452-S4) calling for the OPA to review the current DWP rate increase proposal.
- iii. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council opposes any rate increases until the Ratepayers Advocate has reviewed and analyzed these rate increases and discussed the review and analysis with the Ratepayers and the public.
- iv. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council authorizes the filing of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to Council File# 11-0452-S4 declaring the above.

Doug Fitzsimmons
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Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Gerald Chavarria
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Considerations

Pro

Honors the voter-mandated requirement for independent review of DWP rate hikes

Con

Probably delays the implementation of hikes the DWP believes are necessary to fund voter-mandated programs.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

MOTION

JUL 01 2011

In 2004, the City Council, pursuant to a Motion from Councilmember Greig Smith, instructed the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to initiate an independent third party rate review and analysis process for water and power rate proposals. The purpose of the Council's independent third party assessment is to improve transparency in the rate-making/adjustment process and ensure the interests of the public are upheld.

Since that time, the Council's independent third party rate review process has become a template for all proceeding Department of Water and Power (DWP) rate assessments.

The process calls for CAO and the CLA to hire an independent third party reviewer upon announcement from the DWP of a proposed rate adjustment. Once a qualified firm is hired, the independent assessment of the DWP rate proposal is conducted. Upon completion of the independent third party report, both the DWP's proposal and the independent third party report are then submitted to the Board of Water and Power Commissioner's (Board). If the Board approves the DWP proposal, the matter is forwarded to the Council and Mayor for consideration along with the independent third party assessment.

On March 8, 2011, the voters approved Charter Amendment I relative to the Office of Public Accountability (OPA). The OPA is tasked with providing independent analysis of DWP actions associated with water and power rates.

Since the primary objective of the OPA is to conduct independent reviews of water and power rate proposals, it would be appropriate for this Office's analysis to be considered by the Board as part of submitted rate actions. The Board should consider the OPA's report along with the independent third party report. If the Board approves the DWP proposal, both independent assessments should be jointly submitted to the Council and Mayor for their consideration.

In June 2011, the DWP announced its latest water and power rate proposal. The Council's independent third party review process has already begun. Upon the establishment of the OPA and the appointment of the Executive Director, the OPA's independent review of the DWP's proposal should also be initiated and follow the track of the Council's independent review process. In this manner, the Board, Council and Mayor will have two independent and thorough reviews to ensure the best interests of the City and ratepayers are maintained.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the upon the establishment of the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) and the appointment of its Executive Director, that the Board of Water and Power Commissioner's be requested to consider the OPA's independent analysis/report, along with the Council's independent third party report, as part of its review of water and power rate actions, including the June 2011 proposal.

I FURTHER MOVE that upon an approval of water and power rate proposals by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, that the OPA's independent analysis/report be submitted to the Council and Mayor, along with the Council's independent third party report, for their consideration.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



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ORIGINAL





Motion to Sponsor and Fund Up To \$500 for the 2011 Peace Picnic

Agenda Item: GB081811-5

Date: August 18, 2011

Proposed By: Michael Lynn

Motion to have the SORO NC sponsor the 2011 Peace Picnic, and provide funding of up to \$500 for specific items.

Full Proposal

HarSimran Khalsa has re-approached SORO NC about sponsoring the 2011 Peace Picnic, in what would be its fourth year. The Peace Picnic began as a public response to shootings that occurred within SORO, and was seen as an opportunity for SORO NC to work with our local faith-based organizations.

The total proposed budget for the event has been reduced to \$556. SORO NC is being asked to cover the expenses (not to exceed \$500) for the sound system, Smart & Final purchases, and cutlery/eating utensils.

The event will take place at Robertson Recreation Center on September 18, 2011. In the past the event has drawn about 200-300 attendees.

Proposed Motion

That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council sponsor the 2011 Peace Picnic and provide funding (from the Outreach Committee budget) for the following items:

- I. No more than \$300 for sound
- II. No more than \$115 for purchases from Smart & Final
- III. No more than \$85 for cutlery and plates

Considerations

Pro

This is a request from the community for an event that SORO NC has supported for the past three years.

SORO NC believes in promoting peace in our community.

Con

This event draws comparatively few people for other SORO NC sponsored events.

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Support Request to Conditions of Approval for National Oil

Agenda Item: GB081811-6
Date: August 18, 2011
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

National Oil is requesting modifications to conditions of approval for ZA-2006-9420-CU-ZV-PAD-1A submitted in 2006.

Full Proposal

In 2006, National Oil submitted an application to improve the current facility located at 9815 West National Bl. Los Angeles, 90034. The current Board at that time passed a resolution in support of the changes to the facility and some of the operations on the property. Due to the economic climate of the last few years, National Oil was unable to financially perform the changes to the property. National Oil has since requested a modification to the conditions of approval. The following changes are being requested:

2. The plot plan has changed because we are remodeling and adding onto the existing building rather than replacing it with a new building. The addition will consist of 591 S.F. of elements to enhance the accessibility per A.D.A. compliance.
 8. 5' of landscaping cannot be provided in front of the existing building. The maximum width possible will be provided.
 8. We cannot provide 50% glazing on the ground floor because the building is existing. We will match or increase the percentage of glazing fronting adjacent streets.
 - 19a. We cannot provide 50% glazing on the ground floor because the building is existing. We will match or increase the percentage of glazing fronting adjacent streets.
 - 19b. 5' of landscaping cannot be provided in front of the existing building. The maximum width possible will be provided.
 - 19f. Trash storage bins shall be located within a gated enclosure per section 12.22-A, 23. The enclosure will be open to the sky, but the bins will have covers. The zoning code does not require a covered enclosure.
- Additionally, we would like to locate an air and water dispenser on the residential lot. This was not previously addressed.

The Land Use Committee voted 2-0 in favor of the project to be forwarded to the Board for support. The applicant provided a letter of support from Castle Heights Neighborhood Association in support of the modified project.

Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council moves to support the National Oil request for modification to conditions of approval.
- II. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council moves to submit a letter of support to the Zoning Administrator for the National Oil project, ZA-2006-9420-CU-ZV-PAD-1A

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Considerations

Pro

Improve the look of the corner of National Bl and Castle heights Ave.
Project will add additional traffic lane on National Bl and Castle Heights Ave

Second argument in favor.

Con

Upgrade to operations may impact intersection with additional traffic trips

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Fresh and Easy Support

Agenda Item: GB081811-7
Date: August 18, 2011
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Fresh and Easy is seeking support for a new store on La Cienega Bl.

Full Proposal

Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market (FENM) is a chain of grocery stores in the western United States, headquartered in El Segundo, California. It is a subsidiary of Tesco, the world's third largest retailer and has its U.S. headquarters in El Segundo, California. Its distribution center is located in Moreno Valley near the former March Air Reserve Base and has California's largest solar panel roofing system. FENM is developing a market at the NE corner of La Cienega BL @ 18th Street. FENM is securing a beer and wine license and requesting a letter of support for an extension of normal operational hours from 7:00am-10:00pm to 6:00am-11:00pm.

The Land Use and Economic Committee vote 3-0 in favor of the project to be forwarded to the Board to support the project. In addition to the support for additional operational hours, it is recommended that the following conditions be proposed to the Zoning Administrator:

1. Single-use plastic bags be banned and FENM follow the Los Angeles County ordinance that is required by its other stores located in Los Angeles County.
2. A maintenance contract for 18 months be obtained for the care and watering of the street trees that are proposed to be replaced by FENM on La Cienega BL. This contract is to insure that the trees will have a greater chance of survival.
3. A solid-faced gate to replace the currently-install wrought iron gate that is located on the NE corner of the property. The current gate can be faced to make it solid. This will cut down on the noise of the delivery operations for the adjoining neighbors due to the early and late hours of operation

Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council moves to support the FENM request for an extension of hours and request for additional conditions be applied.
- II. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council moves to submit a letter to the Zoning Administrator in support of FENM's project with the conditions applied for and the three additional conditions SORO NC is requesting.

Considerations

Pro

The area needs a market.

The project will increase employment in the neighborhood.

Con

The project can increase traffic.



Resolution to congratulate Mid City Neighborhood Council on the acquisition of Area B

Agenda Item: GB081811-8
Date: 18 August 2011
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Congratulates MINC on being our newest NC neighbor

Full Proposal

Despite a flawed process that unfairly and unnecessarily pitted two Neighborhood Councils against each other, both SORO NC and Mid City NC clearly demonstrated the commitment and value they bring to their communities. Each made a strong case for their NC; each proved themselves to

While in the end BONC decided not to award Area B to SORO NC, we are confident that the stakeholders will be well-served by MINC.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC officially congratulate Mid City Neighborhood Council on the expansion of their borders to include the area bounded by Venice, La Cienega and Culver City, making MINC our newest neighbor;
- II. That SORO NC considers the definition of our southeastern boundary now settled;
- III. That we look forward to working in close partnership to serve the common interests of the residents and business community on both sides of La Cienega.

Considerations

Pro

Good sportsmanship

Our continuing issues are with BONC and DONE, not MINC. We need to focus on the real battle.

Con

Lingering resentment about the process

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